THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS
BENGALURU • SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 12, 2023 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 28 • LATE CITY EDITION

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SWEDISH DEFENCE MAJOR SAAB TO MAKE IN INDIA

The company will set up manufacturing facility to support production of its Carl-Gustaf M4 rifles in India

WILL MAKE COMPONENTS FOR EXPORT TOO

The facility will not only support production for Indian armed forces, but also weapon components for other users worldwide. It will be the first Saab facility outside Sweden to make Carl-Gustaf M4 rifles. The firm will partner with local sub-suppliers, its chairman Mats Palmberg said. However, there was no clear word on where the unit will be located

CARL-GUSTAF IN INDIAN ARSENAL SINCE 1976

- Carl-Gustaf M4 is a recoilless shoulder-fired weapon that, among other things, helps ground forces destroy enemy tanks
- It has been in service with the Indian Army since at least 1976 and has established itself as the main shoulder-launched weapon of the forces. It is also used by US forces

7kg
APPROXIMATE WEIGHT OF CARL-GUSTAF M4 RIFLE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

GONE IN 1 SESSION Total 91 Overs: 32.3

1 Usman Khawaja c Kohli b Ashwin 5/9balls	2 David Warner lbw b Ashwin 10/41b	3 M Labuschagne lbw b Jadeja 17/28b	4 Steven Smith (not out) 25/51b	5 Matt Renshaw lbw b Ashwin 2/7b	6 Peter Handscomb lbw b Ashwin 6/6b	7 Alex Carey lbw b Ashwin 10/6b	8 Pat Cummins c Bharat b Jadeja 1/13b

9 Todd Murphy c Sharma b Patel 2/15b

10 Nathan Lyon b Mohd Shami 8/20b

11 Scott Boland lbw b Shami 0/3b

India players celebrate an Australia wicket during the first Test in Nagpur on Saturday. India go 1-0 up in four Test series | AP

THE GREAT AUSSIE MELTDOWN

FIROZ MIRZA @ Nagpur

IT was like lambs being led to the slaughterhouse. They came, they played, they left, making no visible dent to the scoresheet. At one point of time it looked like the wickets column moved at a faster clip than the runs scored section on the scoreboard.

In the end, Australia were shot out in a little over two hours. All out for 91 in 32.3 overs. Even for an Australian side who do not like travelling to India — they have won one Test (Pune in 2017) out of 14 since their series win in 2004 — this was a capitulation of epic proportions.

They had planned for this very challenge of batting on the slow, low spin-friendly Indian surfaces for months. Yet, it's the same old story of despair and helplessness in the face of ruthless efficiency. You could also say they allowed the pre-match pitch talk — not something uncommon — to play with their minds.

When that happens, India's bowlers are so good they calmly chew you up and spit you out. That's what took place on Saturday. The No. 1 ranked Test team knew what shots to avoid. They knew how to play. Yet, in the face of an onslaught of pace and spin, they tapped out.

The meltdown left everyone perplexed, even the Indian skipper Rohit Sharma, who scored a hundred in the first innings. "No, I didn't," is what he said when asked if he expected the match to end well inside three days. "We were prepared to have a hard day's bowling, spending session after session. We never thought they would get bowled out in a session." His Australian counterpart, Pat Cummins, also didn't have much to say on the dreadful session. "Not too much. Playing in India, the game really speeds up."

The visitors now have almost a week to prepare for Delhi. It will be a similar surface. Will they be better prepared?

ICC WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP Captain Harmanpreet's role crucial as India go in search of global gold; Smriti Mandhana ruled out of the first match against Pakistan at Cape Town today | Page II

England beat West Indies by seven wickets on Saturday. In the opening match late on Friday, Sri Lanka beat hosts South Africa by just three runs

Modi tears into Cong-Left pact

They are friends in Tripura but foes in Kerala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tura (Meghalaya)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a blistering attack against the Congress-CPI(M) alliance in poll-bound Tripura, saying the two parties fight *kushti* (wrestling) in Kerala but have done *dosti* (friendship) in the north-eastern state.

Addressing a rally in Radhakishorepur in South Tripura district, he advised people to be wary of the double-edged sword of the Congress and Left. Apparently alluding to the Tipra Motha, he said while some parties were helping the Opposition alliance from behind, any vote for them will take Tripura several years backward.

Addressing another rally at Ambassa in the Dhalai district, he said the double-engine BJP government had brought Tripura back on the track of development in five years. Today, people do not associate Tripura with violence or backwardness. The change in Tripura is an example. The February 16 election in Tripura reflects the change," Modi said.

"You find flags of all parties now. Could other parties hoist their flags five years ago? The flag of only one party was allowed to be hoisted. That was their definition of democracy," Modi said about the 25-year Left rule that ended in 2018.

He alleged the Left had the licence to loot for three decades in the name of donations. "Nobody could escape from chanda (donations). People found it very difficult to go to police stations. They had to give *chanda* before as well as after reaching a police station. The police stations were under the control of CPM cadre. The BJP has freed Tripura from the *chanda* culture and established the rule of law," Modi said.

Recalling his commitment in Tripura five years ago about 'HIRA' (highway, internet, railway and airway), he said the highway work had been fast-paced and 5,000 km of roads built to connect the villages.

NIA nabs terror suspect techie in Bengaluru

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Internal Security Division (ISD) of the Karnataka Police on Saturday nabbed a software engineer here for alleged links to the banned Al Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS).

Mohammed Arif (40), who hails from Uttar Pradesh, was based in Bengaluru. He was allegedly "active on social media and was in contact with the Taliban and the al Qaeda", said sources on condition of anonymity. They added that Arif was planning to fly to Syria via Iran on March 10 and had bought air tickets.

The NIA and ISD in a joint operation raided Arif's rented house in Manjunath Layout, 1st Main, 5th Cross, Thanisandra Main Road on Saturday morning and seized his passport, air tickets, laptop and some incriminating documents. The operation was completed around 11.45 am.

"He is being questioned by the agencies," said sources. Arif is married and is living in Bengaluru with his wife and two children.

An NIA statement said they were probing two suspects in a terror conspiracy case, one in Bengaluru and the other in Palghar in Maharashtra, with active help of the ISD and the local police.

The traffic jam on Ballari Road near Yelahanka on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

Aero India: Thousands hit hard by traffic snarls

CHETAN MG @Bengaluru

DRESS rehearsals for the biennial Aero India 2023 on Saturday morning brought agony to Bengaluru in the form of a severe traffic jam on Ballari Road. It wrecked plans of those planning to witness the event and those who didn't, besides delaying several ambulances with critical patients from reaching hospitals.

Lack of coordination between the Department of Defence Production under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Bengaluru Traffic police is being blamed for it.

Sources in the MoD told *TNSE* that a precise estimation of crowds expected at Air Force Station Yelahanka (AFSY), the venue of the five-day biennial Aero India 2023, for the full dress rehearsal on Saturday morning, was not conveyed to senior traffic police officials. Several global and domestic defence vendors displaying their wares at the event are worried after the pulverizing traffic jam ruined supply deadlines to get ready in time for the event to begin on February 13.

DCP (Traffic-North) Sachin Ghorpade said the traffic police were informed about only around 3,000 people coming to watch the dress rehearsals, but around 50,000 arrived. "Around 11,000 vehicles, more than the regular traffic, caused the problem. Usually, the public coming to the show are given entry through 12-13 gates in different places. But on Saturday, everyone was given entry through just 3-4 gates on a single road," he said, adding no restrictions or diversions were put in place.

Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) MA Saleem, however, said traffic drills will be conducted on Sunday to put in place a plan to prevent such a traffic gridlock from occurring when the event begins on Monday.

Jowar shortage: Agri centre develops 2 new varieties

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayapura

IN the backdrop of shortage in production of jowar, a staple diet for the people of north Karnataka, the Regional Agriculture Research Station (RARS) in Vijayapura has developed two high yielding varieties of the crop. Named BGV-44 and CSV-29, scientists believe that these two varieties will give a boost to jowar production.

S.S. Karbhantanal, chief scientist and head of Jowar Development Programme, said that sowing of the new varieties of seeds has been completed in limited areas on a trial basis. "The plants grow taller and can yield at least 25 per cent more grain compared to the regular one", he said.

About BGV-44, he said it is best suited for black cotton soil which holds more moisture. Similar is the quality of the CSV-29 variety.

"The varieties are better than the previous M-35-1. The new variety can give 8-10 quintal of grains and 22-25 quintals of fodder. Since the fodder too contains more moisture, it provides more nutrition to the cattle. Besides giving higher yield, the varieties are pest-resistant too," he added.

Presently, the varieties are available at a centre located near Hittinahalli village. Siddaramappa Navadagi, a farmer who has cultivated the CSV-29 variety, said that the plant carries more grains than the traditional variety. "I am hopeful of getting a higher yield with this variety", he said.

Gloom descends as Indian found dead in Turkiye hotel's rubble

Body may reach India by Monday
The body may arrive in Istanbul on Sunday and could reach New Delhi by Monday morning, Oxyplants India MD Ramesh Siddappa said

DONNA EVA & NAMRATA SINDWANI @ Bengaluru

THE lone Indian who was reported missing after devastating earthquakes struck Turkiye on February 6, was found dead on Saturday. His body was found beneath the rubble of the hotel he was staying at in Malatya in Turkiye's eastern Anatolia region.

Thirty-six-year-old Vijay Kumar was a technician working for Bengaluru-based Oxyplants India Pvt Ltd.

Kumar, who was from Lansdowne in Uttarakhand, arrived in Turkiye on January 25 to take up an assignment for his employer to install and commission an acetylene gas plant. He was due to leave in mid-February. His belongings, including his baggage and ID card, were found beneath the rubble of Hotal Avsar, where he was staying, on Friday. Kumar was identified by his family members based on photos sent by the rescue team.

Kumar's family members are struggling to come to terms with his death. "We were all expecting him to return from Turkiye soon. The last call from him was to his wife and family at 10 pm on February 6. The family has suffered a series of losses, as it was only in December 2022 that Kumar's father passed away," a family member, Gaurav Kala, told this newspaper.

She turned a detective to bring her stolen Husky back

PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

LOVE for pets was on full display when a 20-year-old student left no stone unturned in tracing her stolen dog. The student, Chaitra, a resident of Rajajinagar, had to turn a 'cop' and a 'detective' to ensure that her 5-month-old Husky breed dog, 'Shourya', was back with her within three days after being stolen. Shourya had been sold for Rs 3,000.

Chaitra reached out to various WhatsApp groups of dog owners, animal activists and pet stores and found out that her dog was put on sale. She went around her locality and requested neighbours to share their CCTV footage. To her luck, she found that the registration number of the bike used for stealing Shourya was captured by the CCTV. The accused, fearing getting caught, had covered their faces with hoodies.

She got an alert from one of the WhatsApp groups, that a Husky dog, which looked like Shourya, was put on sale and the seller had also shared his contact details. She lodged a complaint with the Magadi Road police station.

"I went to Hebbal and it was confirmed that it was one Hemanth who lifted my dog along with another person who is a PU student."

Hemanth had also shared his number for those interested in buying Husky dogs. In the guise of a buyer, Chaitra, along with her friends, went to Hemanth's house and found out it was already sold. She then took the accused with her to meet the buyer and managed to get her dog back from the purchaser in Rajajinagar who happens to be the son of a retired police official.

Chaitra told *TNSE*, "Generally Husky dogs hate to be leashed. Along with him, we have another breed which opens the gate on its own. Shourya followed him and did not return home." About the complaint she lodged, Chaitra said, "since they are still young, I withdrew my complaint."